OTESS Petition.

1,11.

To the KINGS moſt Excellent Majeſty, and to the Lords and others of His Majeſties moſt Honble Privy Council.

The humble Petition and Complaint of *Titus Otes*

SHEWETH,

THat your Petitioner according to his Duty and Allegiance which he owes, and is always bound to pay to your Majeſty and the Government Eſtabliſh'd by Law, did in the month of *September*, in the year 1678. Diſcover a moſt Horrid, Helliſh *Popiſh Plot* againſt your Majeſty and the *Proteſtant Religion* and *Government*, to the amazement of your Majeſty and the Privy Council, as appears by the ſeveral Proclamations iſſued out by your Majeſties Order, with the Advice of your moſt Honourable Privy Council, which your Petitioner is, and will be ready to produce when thereunto commanded by your Majeſty.

That your Majeſty was ſo highly ſenſible of the great danger your Perſon was in, and your Government, by reaſon of that Conſpiracy, that you were graciouſly pleaſed to proclaim ſeveral ſolemn Faſts and days of Humiliation, and did will and require your Loving Subjects to joyn in Hearty Prayers and Supplications with your Majeſty unto Almighty God for the Bleſſings of the Diſcovery, and for the farther Diſcovery thereof; and in ſeveral of your Majeſties moſt gracious Speeches to your Houſes of Parliament, hath been pleaſed to expreſs, *How unſafe your Majeſty was till the ſaid Plot was ſearched to the bottom.*

That ſeveral *Roman Catholicks* (Prieſts and others) were Apprehended, and Committed, Indicted and Convicted, Attainted and Executed upon your Petitioners Evidence, together with the Evidence of others, the Attainders of which perſons remain (as your Petitioner believes) upon Record.

That (upon the Evidence of your Petitioner and others) four Parliaments declar'd in their VOTES. *That there was an Horrid* Popiſh Plot *for the Deſtruction of your Royal Perſon and your Government, and the Subverſion of the* Proteſtant Religion *as by Law Eſtabliſhed*

That *Roger L'Eſtrange*, whom your Petitioner hears is now a Juſtice of the Peace, (though turn'd out for ſeveral Miſdemeanors in the year 1680.) hath Defam'd and Arraign'd the Juſtice of the Nation, in Ridiculing the ſaid *Popiſh Plot*, and the Diſcovery and the Diſcoverers thereof, in certain Scandalous and Seditious Pamphlets of his call'd the *Obſervator*, and in ſeveral other Pamphlets.

That the ſaid *Roger L'Eſtrange* pretends in ſome of thoſe Seditious and Scandalous Pamphlets, *That he is authoriz'd ſo to do by one or both your Secretaries*

That the ſaid Scandalous and Seditious Pamphlet, appears to countenance *Popery* in your *Proteſtant Government*, and the *Popiſh Party* have been much encourag'd by the ſame, to Revile and Threaten your Petitioner; he the ſaid *L'Eſtrange* pretending that he had Authority for ſo doing.

That your Petitioner hath born the Scandalous Reflections and Aſperſions, upon the account of his Diſcovery of the ſaid *Plot*, from the ſaid *L'Eſtrange* this four years with Patience; and had the Scandals only touch'd your Petitioner, I would not have complain'd to your Majeſty and this Honourable Board; But ſince the ſaid *L'Eſtrange* Scandalouſly vilifies the ſaid Diſcovery, and calls in queſtion the Juſtice of your Government, your Petitioner therefore thought it fit to apply himſelf to your Majeſty and this Board for Redreſs.

The Premiſſes conſider'd, your Petitioner humbly prays your Majeſty, and this Right Honourable Board, to Relieve your Petitioner and his Evidence *from the Seditious Calumnies of the ſaid* Roger L'Eſtrange, *and not ſuffer your Petitioner to be left, to be daily oppreſſed and deſtroy'd for thoſe* Services *which your Majeſty, and Council, and Parliament, and Courts of Juſtice are ſenſible of: And your Petitioner ſhall (as in duty bound) pray for your Majeſties Health, and long Life, and happy Reign, &c.* Titus Otes.

OTES'S Letter.

For the Right Honourable Sir Leoline Jenkins *Knight His Majesties Principal Secretary of State at* Whitehall.

I Gave your Honour the last *Friday* the trouble of a few Lines, in which I told you, that I had business of Importance with the King and Councel; your answer was, *That I must apply my self to a Justice of Peace, or Courts of Justice*: The business I had with the Council, is a Complaint against *Roger L'Estrange* Esq; who in several Libels of his called the *Observator*, and other Seditious Pamphlets, hath (as I humbly conceive,) Vilified and Ridicul'd the Evidence of the *Popish Plot*, and Arraigned the Proceedings of the Government, upon the said *Plot*; And to give himself a reputation in this his Illegal course, he pretends in one or more of those his said *Observators*, that he hath Authority or leave from some of His Majesties Ministers for so doing; which I dare not believe. Your Honour knows, that His Majesty was so sensible of the danger he was in, by reason of that Horrid Conspiracy, that he did not only recommend the strict examination thereof, to His Houses of Parliament, but also was pleased to acquaint them, how unsafe he was till it was searched out to the bottom. Besides this, three Fasts were Proclaimed, Appointed and kept, which the King himself strictly kept, and commanded all His Loving Subjects so to do; several have been Executed; and several Parliaments have Voted, *That there was an Horrid, Helliſh Popish Plot*; Now all these things considered, I could never have imagined that any private Persons, could have been so bold with the Government, as to use such Reflections upon their Proceedings, and call in question the Veracity of the Testimony of that Evidence, which was justified by His Majesties Council, and the Parliament, and the Courts of Justice; I thought I should never have liv'd to have seen the day that the *Plot* should be call'd in question, which the King had own'd in his several Proclamations; But since it is so, I must pray your Pardon, if I cannot apply my self for Redress in that way and method your Honour was pleased to order: For I humbly conceive that it is the Government that is abused, and therefore in Conscience and Honour it is bound to vindicate its Proceedings from such Aspersions as are cast upon them by the said *L'Estrange* and his Confederates; I would not use any method or way to injure the worst of my Enemies, but that the Council will take my hard usage from the said *L'Estrange* into serious Consideration, and cause the said *L'Estrange* to be Silenc'd, and Reparation to be made me. To that end, I have in this sent a Petition to the King and Council, which I would have presented if I might have had the liberty to appear at Court, in which I pray for Redress; I hope God will put it into your hearts to do me right. In the mean time, *Sir* I am

Your Honours Humble Servant
TITUS OTES.

Feb. 28. 1683.

My humble Request is, that this Petition inclosed, may be presented to the King in Council, so that I may be in some probable way of having Redress.